Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A cell culture growth substrate adapted to sustain growth of living cells, said substrate comprising a water-soluble glass matrix ~~adapted to sustain growth of living cells~~ which comprises at least a portion of its surface coated with living cells, wherein the water-soluble glass of said water-soluble glass matrix comprises at least one metallic ion or boron-containing compound.

2. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein ~~at least~~ a portion of the surface of said substrate is coated with living cells.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble glass is a phosphate glass.

5. (previously presented) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass comprises phosphorus pentoxide as glass former.

6. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass comprises an oxide or a carbonate of an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal or a transition metal as glass modifier.

7. (previously presented) The substrate of Claim 6, wherein said glass modifier is sodium oxide, potassium oxide, magnesium oxide, zinc oxide or calcium oxide.

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass has a dissolution rate ranging from substantially zero to 2.0 mg/cm^2/hour at 38°C.

10. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass enables a controlled release of additives in an aqueous medium.

11. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 10, wherein said additives comprise at least one metallic ion or boron-containing compound.

12. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass matrix comprises water-soluble glass ~~fibres~~ fibers.

13. (currently amended) The substrate of Claim 12, wherein said water-soluble glass ~~fibres~~ fibers are sintered together to form a non-woven mat.

14. (previously presented) The substrate of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble glass matrix comprises finely comminuted glass particles.

15. (original) The substrate of Claim 14, wherein said finely comminuted glass particles are sintered together to form a porous structure.

16. (previously presented) The substrate of Claim 14, wherein said glass particles have an average diameter of from 15 microns to 6 mm.

17. (cancelled).

18. (previously presented) A method to encourage growth of living tissue by providing the substrate of Claim 1.

19. (currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ of Claim 18, wherein said method includes the step of delivering metal ions or boron to an aqueous medium at a rate which maintains a concentration of metal ions or boron in said aqueous medium of not less than 0.01 parts per million and not greater than 10 parts per million.